

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

Messengers reelect Luter, approve BSA resolution



SBC OFFICERS

HOUSTON (BP and local reports) — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) June 11-12 in Houston, Texas, re-elected Fred Luter, the body's first African American president, to a second consecutive one-year term and heard him deliver a rousing challenge to Southern Baptists to unite and pray for revival.

The call for cooperation and revival was delivered by other leaders, including SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page, interim pastor of First Church, Jackson, and from members of a Calvinism advisory committee who spoke in the exhibit hall the day prior to the convention.

"Could it be that the reason that lost friend, that lost relative, that lost co-worker, that lost neighbor, that lost classmate, have not yet turned from darkness to light is because they don't see us as the body of Christ getting along?" Luter asked during a special Tuesday evening service focused on revival. "Friend, how is it that we say we love God, whom we've never seen, yet don't speak to our brother and sister that we see every day?" Messengers also passed 12 resolutions that covered a variety of issues, including one that expressed "our continued opposition to and disappointment in" the decision of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to allow homosexual members. The resolution also affirmed the right of churches to determine their affiliation with BSA.

Another resolution that garnered significant attention addressed mental health, calling on Southern Baptists to fight the "stigmatization and prejudice" of those with mental health concerns and to "love and minister to" them.

The resolution passed in light of the suicidal death of Rick Warren's youngest son and the publication of a new book by Page about the suicide of his daughter Melissa.

Luter was re-elected unopposed, getting a standing ovation from the messengers

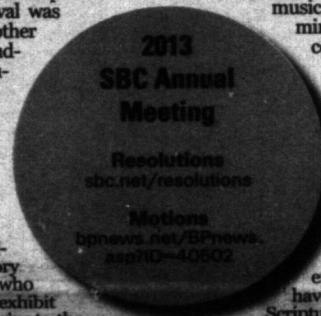
when Registration Secretary Jim Wells cast the ceremonial ballot for the convention.

The overwhelming majority of the 5,100 registered messengers came to a special revival-focused Tuesday night service — the annual meeting hadn't had night sessions the previous two years — where Charles Billingsley of Thomas Road Church, Lynchburg, Va., led congregational worship in music for more than 45 minutes, likely a record in recent SBC history.

Luter delivered his presidential sermon during the session. For revival to fall on the SBC, Luter said in his message from John 13:34-35, Southern Baptists must have a love for the Scripture, the Savior, and the saints (fellow Christians). Luter gave the most attention to his final point: the need for Southern Baptists to love one another.

The roadblock to a revival, Luter said, may be that the lost world does not see Christians loving one another with unconditional love. Southern Baptists "will never see revival in the world until we first see revival in the church," he said.

see SBC on p. 6



Inside this issue

Directions.....	4
Sunday School lessons.....	
Editorial.....	
Scripture Scramble.....	
How to Become a Christian.....	
Vacation Bible School.....	
Just for the Record.....	
Classifieds.....	

SPECIAL GIFT — Soon Shil Beck, executive director of the Korean Women's Missionary Union, gives a birthday greeting and presents Wanda Lee, national executive director and treasurer for the Woman's Missionary Union, with a check and plaque during the WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting June 9 at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston. The WMU, which holds its annual meeting prior to the convening of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, is celebrating 125 years of missions.



JUL 02 2013
ST002 P1
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOC
1000 2910 6200#
#BXNF MAY 15 2013 10:00 AM
NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Can it happen here?

A few years ago, Newsweek magazine published a haunting article we should all read again and commit to memory, the subject of which should serve as both a caution and as an object of prayer as we minister to the children of our own communities. It is the story of the children of St. Michael, a tiny Eskimo village in Alaska so remote in the 1960s that no roads connected it to the rest of the world and there was only one telephone for the whole community. Everyone was poor.

St. Michael was rich in one way, the Newsweek article noted. Villagers were proud of their children, who whiled away the long days in the colorful berry fields of the frozen tundra or on the ice of the Bering Strait, fishing for the abundant tomcod. In many ways it was an idyllic, if isolated, life.

It was into that setting that the Jesuit order of the Roman Catholic Church sent a number of priests and workers representing the Church. Some of them were eventually accused of sexually molesting almost every child in St. Michael over an unbroken string of four decades.

"It is one of the darkest chapters of sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church," the Newsweek article states. "More than 110 children in Eskimo villages claim they were molested between 1959 and 1986, raped or assaulted by 12 priests and three church volunteers. Families and victims believe that another 22 people were sexually abused by clergy members but have since killed themselves. The Jesuit Oregon Province, which includes Alaska, has agreed to pay \$50 million in damages. It is believed to be the largest settlement ever against a religious order."

Tom Cheemuk told Newsweek he was one of the victims. An alcoholic in his late fifties, Cheemuk has attempted to kill himself because of his anger and shame. He has also lost two brothers to suicide and wonders if they too were abused. He alleges he was abused by more than one priest at the same time.

Newsweek also discovered from court filings that one priest covered under the Jesuit settlement is accused of fathering four children and encouraging a 16-year-old girl to have an abortion, which she did. Another priest allegedly impregnated a young girl, then pressured her to blame it on her father and have an abortion. "These priests had abused elsewhere and then were unleashed in the most

uncontrolled environment," Patrick Wall, a former Benedictine monk and Catholic priest who served as a consultant to attorneys in the Alaska lawsuits, told Newsweek.

The story of the children of St. Michael should serve as a warning to us, because the same thing could happen to Mississippi Baptists. Don't be shocked, and don't avert your eyes in casual disbelief. Alaska may be a long way from Mississippi, both in terms of distance and culture, but there has been at least one Mississippi Baptist church in a similar (but not identical) situation recently, and there are probably others.

Think about it. Is there a more "target-rich" environment for pedophiles than our churches? Is there another place where more children gather in greater numbers under the supervision of trusted adults? How well do you know the adults to whom you entrust your church's children? How well do you know them, really?

At your Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, every employee is required to undergo a background check during the hiring process, and then at regular intervals. That's because most convention board employees have contact with children at some time in the course of their jobs. It's not a foolproof process, but it sure beats doing nothing — and nothing is what too many of our churches are doing.

The leaders of every church in the Mississippi Baptist Convention should consult with their attorney to put together an appropriate system for checking everyone who works with the church's children. If you're one of the thousands of legitimate children's workers in our churches, you should not be offended by having to take part in a safety system that screens out the few predators who would take advantage of your church's trust.

Not doing so can be devastating. Not many churches have \$50 million to settle lawsuits, but there's an even greater cost.

"You see the alcoholism, the severe mental problems, people in and out of jail," an attorney who has handled many of the Alaska cases told Newsweek, "and you wonder, how do you put Humpty Dumpty back on the wall?"

The fact is, you can't. That's why we should be praying for the children of St. Michael, and ensuring that all the children in our Mississippi Baptist churches are as safe as they can be. Start today.

Caution! Don't grow weary

Can you think of the last time you gave in to something you know you shouldn't have? What causes you to lose heart, give up on doing good, and give into temptation even when you know it is wrong?

I have spent some time the last couple of months meditating on what causes me to grow weary and to want to stop being obedient. When I say weary, I am not talking about being physically tired because of lack of sleep or something like that. The word Paul uses for "grow weary" in the Greek actually means "giving into evil." This is a kind of spiritual weariness that causes you to want to give up on doing good and give into sin.

Ever been there? Me, too. I know the good I am supposed to do, yet there are times I willingly choose to sin. That crushes and grieves me! I have become a coward because doing the good thing, doing the God thing, is too hard or the payoff isn't immediate enough or, frankly, sometimes my character is just plain weak.

As I have been thinking about what has caused me to give into sin in the past, I have noticed several recurring patterns and symptoms. I have come up with a five-letter acronym using the word, "weary," to help us talk about those things that may cause you and me to be spiritually weary and tempted to give into evil:

Weariness

Here, I actually do mean physical weariness because the truth is that there are times when I am physically tired and give in to sin more easily. If I get worn out and don't take time for real rest, I find myself getting really impatient and short-tempered with people. Adequate sleep, along with eating properly and getting exercise, actually helps me in this.

Evangelism lacking

Our one purpose for remaining on this earth after we have been saved is



Guest opinion

with Candi Finch

to go and tell other people about how to be saved and how to live the Christian life (Matt. 28:19-20). When I am sharing my faith regularly, it has a positive, energizing impact on my walk with the Lord.

Actions replace God

If I consider those times when I have really struggled with sin (even while being actively involved in ministry), the one common denominator is that I was not regularly spending time in God's Word. That doesn't mean that when I do spend time with the Lord, all my temptations cease. What happens, though, is that God's Word gives me strength to resist giving into evil (Psalm 119:11).

Relationships aren't refreshing

I may surround myself with people who aren't encouraging me to run the race with endurance. I even may distance myself from my "iron sharpens iron" friends who keep me accountable. I avoid the very people who could help me not to grow weary! You need people in your life who challenge you to keep doing good, even when it is hard.

Yeast is influencing

Some yeast that has negatively influenced my own life has been taking in the world's influence through

see FINCH on p. 7

THE BaptistRecord

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora Paul Sims, Pontotoc; Barry Burris, Terry Carl White, Meridian; Billie Buckley, Petal; Russell Mord, Sturgis

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Postmaster: Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



VOLUME 137 • NUMBER 25 • ISSN-0005-5778
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Pastors' Conference held prior to start of SBC

HOUSTON (BP) — Pastors received encouragement and challenge to remain strong in ministry and to champion the Gospel during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 9-10 in Houston.

SBPC President Gregg Matte, pastor of Houston's First Church, invited speakers serving in churches from coast to coast and internationally. The annual two-day event concluded with a message from former Arkansas governor and current Fox News Channel host Mike Huckabee.

Bruce Frank

Bruce Frank, pastor of Biltmore Church in Arden, N.C., opened the conference on Sunday evening with a message on finishing well in ministry.

Frank, who later was elected as SBPC president, preached from 2 Timothy 4:9-18, in which the apostle Paul is ministering to a young and struggling Timothy. Speaking from his experiences with ministry struggles, Frank said, "I understand that you are going through many trials, pastor, but what is going to matter 10 years from now? The important thing to remember is to both finish — and finish well — in your service to Christ and others."

Noting that many clergy are burned out or stressed in their ministry, Frank reminded conference attendees always to be aware of the obvious obstacles and to confront them. "You are going to be lonely, tired, angry and impatient at times," Frank said. "I have a question for you, though: 'Is ministry still worship for you?'"

"From this passage in 2 Timothy, you see Paul fired up about his love for Jesus. So, are you in awe of Jesus and are you allowing God's message of salvation to change you daily? When Paul looks in the mirror, he sees not a pastor or a church planter, but who Christ is and what Christ has done in his life."

Noting how this passage applies to pastors today, Frank said they, like Paul, must focus on both their ministry and their devotion to Christ.

John Bisagno

John Bisagno, pastor emeritus at Houston's First Church, told pastors that, in the words of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, they are "built to last." He urged ministers to finish the task to which God has called them and for which He has equipped them.

Many who enter the ministry do not last, Bisagno said. He said hundreds of ministers from various Christian denominations leave the ministry every month and that only a minority of seminary graduates will remain in the ministry eight years after graduation.

Those who quit the battle or find themselves disqualified, he said, subject America and the

world to an ever-quicken spiritual decline — a decline that he said has led Islam, Mormonism, and the occult to become the first, second, and third fastest growing religions in the United States, respectively.

The decline of Christianity and the disappearance of those once committed to the ministry do not have to continue, Bisagno said. He offered four areas of focus: moral issues, money, people and a realistic understanding of success in ministry.

As for moral issues, Bisagno told ministers to guard their eyes, love their wives and maintain correctly ordered priorities. Concerning money, he said to follow Matthew 6:33 in seeking first the Kingdom of the Lord before anything else. Specifically, he told them not to touch church money, to have no "shady" dealings with the church credit card, and never to discuss the amount of an honorarium or salary.

Discussing people, Bisagno challenged pastors to be wary of the legalists, the faithless, the doubtful and the "self-appointed church bosses." He counseled pastors to remember their commonality, avoid their discouragement and not to respond combatively. Instead, listen closely and lead wisely, he said.

Through it all ministers must finish the fight and finish it well, Bisagno said.

Ed Stetzer

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research in Nashville, told pastors that Southern Baptist churches must reclaim salt-and-light ministries and churches. "Christians are called to be salt and light and to live in such a way that makes us distinct from the world but also impacts the world," he said.

Stetzer, who also is lead pastor of Grace Church in Hendersonville, Tn., explained the biblical concepts of salt and light and why they are important.

Preaching from Matthew 5, Stetzer observed things about salt that he said would take churches and ministries to "a higher level." For the former, Stetzer claimed that salt "preserves," "creates thirst" and "needs to stay salty."

Citing statistics that indicate a decline in total membership of the Southern Baptist Convention over a 50-year period and the lowest baptism rate since 1948, Stetzer warned pastors that the Southern Baptist Convention runs the risk of losing its saltiness. "What this convention needs to be about, what this day needs to be about is our people in God's church saying to King Jesus, 'Lord, our hearts are broken. Revive us, Jesus. Send us again on Your mission. Help us to live out as salt and light.'"

Calling Matthew 5 the "most important sermon preached by the most important person," Stetzer said it presents light as

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference
June 9-10,
Houston



BISAGNO



CARTER



FRANK



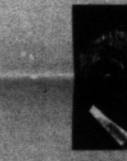
LAURIE



MCKENZIE



STETZER



WOO

Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome. Finally, after Claudius died and Jews began to return, the church settled into an uneasy ethnic split as majority Gentile/minority Jew.

"We get some indicators from the apostle Paul that there were some elements of tension between the minority Jews and the majority Gentiles," Woo said. "The ones who used to be in charge now are no longer in charge."

Woo reminded pastors that the present century has its own lines of demarcation, and for those in the minority status, who feel different and ostracized, those lines matter. "I want you to get into the skin of a person who may not be a majority, and they're coming to your church," Woo said.

Paul did not ignore the real ethnic differences within the church, Woo said, but rather emphasized that there was no distinction in God's sight between Jew and Gentile, that all are one in Christ.

Matt Carter

Matt Carter, pastor at Austin Stone Community Church in Austin, Texas, challenged pastors to love their wives and family well. "We want to be known as men who are not only making an impact in our ministries," Carter said, "but we want to be known as great husbands and great fathers."

Carter preached from Ephesians 5, emphasizing Jesus' love for the church. Using his own personal story as an example, he confessed that earlier in his ministry, if someone pulled back the veil on his life, it would be evident he was not a great husband.

Several years ago, after Carter's wife said she did not feel pursued or cherished by him, he realized his passion for the church had eclipsed his primary call to love his wife. Carter said he turned to Ephesians 5 to seek guidance from God as he sought to win back the heart of his wife. Although familiar, He pointed out in Ephesians 5:23-25 that Jesus not only loved the church but He loved her first.

Carter said he works hard to love his wife by being a "one-woman man." He never travels alone, has protective software on both his computer and phone, and has given access to his email, phone, social media and financial records over to his wife.

Carter also encouraged pastors to lead first in the arena of conflict: "In the midst of conflict, you take the initiative to bring peace."

Finally, Carter said that besides the Holy Spirit, God has called husbands to take an active part in their wives' sanctification. A husband should regularly ask his wife about her spiritual life and encourage her to utilize her spiritual gifts in the body of Christ.

Greg Laurie

Greg Laurie, senior pastor of

Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Ca., spoke from Acts 17 to challenge believers to be faithful in preaching the Gospel.

"I came to the Lord through the preaching of the Gospel," Laurie said. "I'm as passionate about preaching the Gospel as I have ever been. I'll take it a step further: I'm more passionate."

Laurie came to faith in Jesus Christ at age 17 when he heard the Gospel preached on his high school campus. Two years later, he began a Bible study of about 30 people that eventually grew into Harvest Christian Fellowship and more than 15,000 church members.

At age 60, Laurie remains devoted to preaching the Gospel that transformed his life. More than 371,000 professions of faith have been recorded during Laurie's evangelistic Harvest Crusades.

Laurie shared with Pastors' Conference attendees that the Gospel carried him through the darkest valleys, including his oldest son's death in 2008. "It tested my faith. If the Gospel did not come through for me in my hour of need, I would have given up preaching."

Laurie urged pastors to preach biblical messages that do not overlook the cross and return of Christ.

"Focus on Jesus Christ crucified and risen," Laurie said. "If you want your message to have authority, you have to speak of Him crucified."

Although the Day of Judgment is one of the hardest things to preach, Laurie said, "to leave it out is not to declare the whole Gospel."

Laurie reminded believers that the command is to preach and to share the Gospel, but the results are in God's hands. "One day, before we know it, we're going to stand before God. When you stand before Jesus, He's not going to say, 'Well done, my good and successful servant.' He's going to say, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant.' Our job is to be faithful to the end."

Tim McKenzie

Tim McKenzie, president and founder of On Every Word Ministries, brought a message from God's Word that was just that: God's Word.

McKenzie put a twist on the most basic of sermons as he wove passages from both the Old and New Testaments in a 37-minute memorized recitation that drew from 19 books of the Bible. He began in Genesis, walking through the seven days of creation and jumping periodically to Romans 1 and other passages to view "His eternal power and divine nature."

McKenzie paired each day of the creation account with a corresponding biblical truth about the God who lights the world, feeds the birds of the air and offers rest to the weary.

In Baptist churches it seems as though it has just become a part of the form of our worship service that at the close of the service or at sometime during the service we extend an invitation. Many churches and even some evangelical services do not have this time of invitation. The reason we do is because we believe that we are under a mandate from heaven to extend an opportunity for men, women, boys and girls to respond to the call of Jesus to their hearts.

While there are many passages that would indicate this in the Scripture, none could be clearer than in Revelation when it says, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). There is an appeal. There is an opportunity for someone to publicly respond out of their heart to Jesus.

Through the years I have known of times and experiences where people were not really sure what the invitation time was all about. I think of the time that a little fellow came down the aisle and the pastor meeting him and welcoming him said, "Son, how do you come?" The little boy who came to church on one of the church buses in the bus ministry told the pastor, "I come on the bus." What the pastor was asking and what the little boy was answering were two different things, but in time they got on the same page.

A pastor was extending the invitation at the end of the service, and a young fellow who was not too acquainted with church life came walking down the aisle. The pas-



With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The Invitation

tor greeted him with an inquiry, "How is Jesus speaking to your heart?" The little boy said, "How long is this going to last?" When I heard about this incident, I thought to myself that this young fellow might be deacon material.

In all seriousness, the time of invitation in our churches must be kept at a high priority as the invitation from God is offered to us. We must never treat it lightly. We must always enter into it with an awareness that decisions can be made in a moment of time that will affect eternity. Sometimes pastors can be lulled into complacency in presenting the Gospel and the plan of God to save people and how that takes place. We must remain vigilant to seek a fresh and clear biblical understanding so that the directions are clear for someone to trust Jesus.

For those of you who have flown on an airplane you know that at every takeoff point there are directions given concerning the safety features of the flight. If there is a decrease in cabin pressure, the oxygen mask will fall down. If there is an escape that needs to take place because of some crash landing, you will need to do certain things. Frequent flyers get to the place where they can mumble through that almost as well as the flight attendant. Rarely do they pay any attention at all to what the person is saying. If by chance you have ever been on a plane and have experienced the need for some of the emergency procedures to be put into action, you know that all of a sudden everything that you have heard said again and again, flight after flight comes into sharp focus because of your desire to clearly understand and act.

I for one had gotten to where I hardly ever listened to what was being said, but one day years ago I was on a plane that landed, taxied to the end of the runway, stopped and shutdown all of its engines and power. Then the announcement came that there was a bomb on board and everybody needed to move immediately to the escape hatches. The doors popped open and the chutes went from the plane to the ground. Everybody started making their way as quickly as they could to get themselves down the chute, off of the plane and away from what could be an aircraft about to explode. I became more deeply interested in what those folks had to say than I had ever been before. I wished that I had paid closer attention and that they would run through the instructions again.

As a pastor, I was frequently reminded that I never knew what was taking place in people's lives that caused them to come to a deep realization of a great need for the Savior. Would it happen this Sunday, the following week, the following month or at some special occasion in the life of our church? I did not know, but what I tried to live with constantly was that someone could well be on the verge of a crisis or an emergency. In ways I never knew and that they had not experienced before, they saw their need for a Savior. So to the best of my ability every time and at every turn, I wanted to be an instrument used of God to make the Gospel presentation clear, simple and powerful.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Vacation Bible School



FIRST CHURCH, CHARLESTON: John Price, pastor; Barbara Rodgers, director.

In other VBS News:

► **Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal:** June 24 - 28; pre-K - 6th grade; 6 - 8:15 p.m.; register at lynnrayroadbaptistchurch@gmail.com or call (601) 545-7635.

► **Sand Hill Church, West:** June 23 - 27, 6 - 8 p.m.; nursery - adults.

► **Beulah Church, Lexington:** June 24 - 28, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.



TRINITY CHURCH, VICKSBURG, raised enough money to build five longhouse units in Malaysia. Enough money was raised through a churchwide yard sale for two of the longhouses at \$900 each. The balance was raised during VBS. As a result of a competition between the girls and boys, Lucy Houseal and William Cook received pies in the face.

MS POSITIONS

NEW BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED ON HWY 541 N. MAGEE, MS. IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resume to New Bethlehem Baptist Church, 2242 Hwy 541 North, Mendenhall, MS 39114-5442.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH IN SONTAG MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Interested applicants should be able to direct choirs and lead the congregation through traditional and contemporary music during worship services. Please send resumes to Shiloh Baptist Church PO Box 166 Sontag MS 39965 or email to esthermartin1958@hotmail.com.

IUKA BAPTIST CHURCH OF IUKA, MS IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Denomination: Southern Baptist. Please send resumes to: ibcpastors@gmail.com or Pastor Search Committee, 130 Cypress St., Iuka, MS 38852.

YALE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Dead line for resumes is 6-30-2013. Send resumes to 510 University Cleveland, MS 38732.

GRACE UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH, DECATUR, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to Grace United Baptist Church, P.O. Box 26, Decatur, MS 39327.

HAMILTON BAPTIST CHURCH IN HAMILTON, MS IS SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resumes to Larry Whitaker, Chairman, 40264 Hamilton Road, Hamilton, MS 39746.

THE WAY COMMUNITY CHURCH IS LOOKING TO FILL THE POSITION OF A BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH MINISTER. We are a contemporary SBC. Please send resume to PO Box 1123, Louisville, MS 39339. www.thewaycommunitychurch.net

CLASSIFIEDS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MARTIN, TENN. IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH. Must have a Master's Degree from a Southern Baptist Seminary and at least 3-5 years of Youth Ministry experience. Please e-mail resume to youthsearch@fbcmartin.org

CHURCH INSURANCE SPECIALIST: BROTHERHOOD MUTUAL INSURANCE, a national leader insuring churches in alliance with GuideStone. Provides property, liability, auto and worker's comp - call 1 (800) 422-3384 to request a quote today!

DO YOU NEED A CHURCH PIANIST? Try our piano CDs for churches to sing by! Hymns, Patriotic, Chorus, etc. - Worship Service Resources 1-877-977-6800. FREE DEMO! Special Church Pricing! www.wsrpianos.com

SEBREN'S SIDING www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebren. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP - WINDOWS AND storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$95/night and Condo \$75/night. Contact: 832 922 0401 or E-mail: pdw4760@att.net for information and booking.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

GET AWAY AT BETSY'S LIL' CABINS call for a brochure 601-940-6841.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

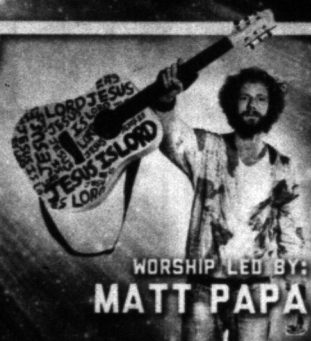
June 20, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

YOUTH NIGHT

COLLIDE

SPEAKER:
ED NEWTON



WORSHIP LED BY:
MATT PAPA

JULY 26, 2013 • JACKSON COLISEUM • 6:30 P.M.

For more information contact the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 601-292-3278.

Church
Financial
Guidebook

**"But everything must be done
decently and in order."
1 Corinthians 14:40**

This publication is intended to provide helpful information for the church treasurer. You will find qualifications, responsibilities, receipts of money, disbursements, ethics, recording/accounting, and IRS information. All will be done from a Biblical perspective. Every church will benefit from the wisdom of this material.

To order this, and any other resources pertaining to Stewardship,
please contact: Lisa Leavell, Stewardship/CP Promotion,
601-292-3347 or lleavell@mbcb.org

In the Name of Jesus... the Journey of Faith

MUSIC MISSISSIPPI

August 23-24, 2013

McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl
Registration Begins at 12:30 p.m. on Friday
COST OF CONFERENCE \$30

Worship Leadership/General

Dr. Paul Clark
Tennessee Baptist Convention
Kristen Johnson
Assist. Prof. of Music
Mississippi College
Stan Loyd
Music/Worship Faculty
Blue Mountain College
Jimmy McCaleb
Retired, Church Music Dept., MBCB
Ryan McNair
Student, William Carey University

Worship Technology Applications

Barry Burris
Wynndale BC, Terry, Miss.
Josh Willis
FBC, McComb, Miss.

Piano/Organ/Keyboard

Wyndy South
Church Music Dept., MBCB
Tommy Creel
Crossgates BC, Brandon, Miss.

Handbells

Edd Brashier
FBC, Jackson, Miss.

Youth

Ken Reich
Bellevue BC, Memphis, Tenn.

Instrumental

David Young
Church Music Department, MBCB

Larry Bradford
Fairview BC, Columbus, Miss.

Jason Carson
FBC, Eupora, Miss.

Preschool/Children's Choir

Courtney Standback
Fairview BC, Columbus, Miss.

Carol McElroy
Gilbertown BC, Gilbertown, Ala.

Katrina Marler
Daniel Memorial BC, Jackson, Miss.

For more information, registration forms and motel listings, refer to
your 2013 Noted Events Booklet. You may also call
1-800-748-1651, ext. 267, or in town 601-292-3267.

Registration deadline is **August 5, 2013.**

Information and forms are also available on our Web site at www.mbcb.org.
Click on Departments/Church Growth/Church Music/Events/Music Mississippi.

ALL-STAR SUNDAY SCHOOL TRAINING

August 23 & 24, 2013

First Baptist Church, Brandon, MS

Special Guests:

David Francis, LifeWay

Sam Rainer III

Josh Hunt

Cost \$25

Registration Opens 6 p.m.

Friday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. – noon

Sponsored by the Sunday School
Department of the Mississippi
Baptist Convention Board.

Contact us at 1-800-748-1651

ext. 291,

or 601-292-3291, or

cday@mbcb.org

GROWING CHURCHES[®]

Sponsored by MS Baptist Convention & North MS Baptist Association

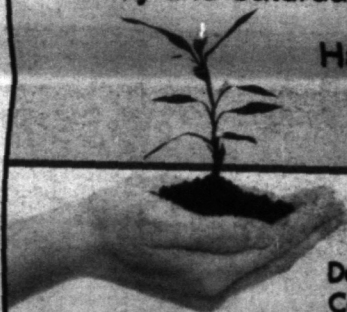
Growing Churches Conference

Friday and Saturday, August 9 and 10, 2013

Harrisburg Baptist Church

4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd

Tupelo, MS 38801



For more information contact the
Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department of the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board at 601-292-3283

STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

August 1-3, 2013

Garaywa Camp and Conference

Center, Clinton



For more information contact Mississippi
WMU at 601-292-3317 or
lmiller@mbcb.org



TOGETHER FOR CHRIST

September 24, 2013

Broadmoor Church, Madison

September 30, 2013

Harrisburg Church, Tupelo



PASTORS AND WORSHIP LEADERS 2013 WORKSHOPS

Please preregister so that we might prepare materials. For further information contact:
Alan Woodward, Pastor/Leadership Development Department, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or
Sister Murphy, Church Music Department, ext. 267.



Connecting the Story

ANNUAL MISSIONS CELEBRATION

with WMU Annual Meeting and Missions Leadership Training

AUGUST 16-17, 2013

BRANDON BAPTIST CHURCH

100 BRANDON BAPTIST DRIVE

BRANDON, MS 39042

601-824-1781

For more information contact Mississippi WMU at
800-748-1651, ext. 317,
601-292-3317 or lmiller@mbcb.org

For more information contact the
Mission Strategy office of the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
601-292-3331

UNLIMITED

Servants of the manifold grace of God 1 PETER 4:10

2013 Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions



SCHOOL PRAYER WALK

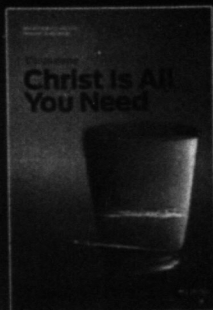
SCHOOL PRAYER WALK
Dates: Sunday, July 28, 2013

Pray for our Mississippi students, teachers, administrators, and school boards. Pray that the Glory of the Lord will fill the offices, classrooms, halls and athletic fields of our Mississippi schools. Visit www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/pray.aspx for resources to organize a School Prayer Walk for your missions group or church.

For more information contact the WMU office at the **Mississippi Baptist Convention Board** at 601-292-3317

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINICS

of the January Bible Study 2014



September 9, 2013 - 100 - Cleveland
September 10, 2013 - Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain - Jackson
September 11, 2013 - Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson - 4th Floor Sky Room
September 12, 2013 - William Carey University, Hattiesburg - Kresge Room in the Thomas Business Building

Registration: 8:30-9 a.m.
Preview Study: 9 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

No Cost

Teacher and Leader books will not be available at the preview for others.

Sponsored by your Cooperative Program and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Sunday School Department, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205
1-800-748-1651, ext 291, or 601-292-3291; Fax: 601-714-7430, E-mail: cday@mbcb.org

2013 STATE

Senior ADULT RALLY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013
RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON
(601-853-1090, Ext. 35)

For more information contact the MABC West and Central Region Office, 1000
South Old Highway, Jackson, Mississippi, 39205, 601-292-3331

8 a.m. Tuesday - 4 p.m. Thursday
Provide continuing education, enrichment,
and fellowship for ministry assistants.

Contact Cathy Taylor for more information,
call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or
601-292-3305

Professional Certification and Office Skillsshops *for ministry assistants*

August 20-22, 2013
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, Clinton, Mississippi

Pray this day for...

June 21 - July 11, 2013

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."
2 Peter 3:18

Pray for a team of 11 from the **Calhoun Association** going to Utah, 6/21-6/29.

Pray for a team of 10 from **FBC, Clinton**, going to Montana for construction, 6/22-6/29.

Pray for a team of five from **Park Place BC, Brandon**, traveling to Scotland for Church planting, 6/28-7/6.
Pray for a team of 13 from **FBC, Clinton**, going to the Czech Republic for sports & ESL camp, 6/28-7/9.

Pray for a team of 15 from **Meadow Grove BC, Brandon**, going to Vancouver for community apt. ministry/prayer walk, 6/29-7/6.

Pray for a team of 22 from **Pelahatchie BC, Pelahatchie**, going to the Dominican Republic for VBS and construction, 6/23-7/8.
Pray for a team of 20 from **Dixie BC, Hattiesburg**, going to Peru for children, medical, evangelism, and construction, 6/23-7/8.

Pray for a team of five from **FBC, Tupelo**, going to SE Asia for evangelism and pastoral training, 6/24-7/5.
Pray for a team of 18 from **Temple BC, Moss Point**, going to the Bahamas for evangelism and VBS, 6/24-6/30.

Pray for: **John* and Melinda* Kyzar**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the Czech Republic through "personalization," church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Henry* and Linda Lee**, missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples in the U.S. through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of five from **Trinity BC, Southaven**, going to England, 6/27-7/3.

Pray for: **Kevin* and Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Canada through theological education and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **John and Sarah* Perkins**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in France through mission support and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy* and Rebecca* Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of 12 from **Gary Bowlin Evangelistic Assn., Inc.**, going to Romania for VBS and evangelism, 7/1-7/10.

Pray for: **Asbury and Jeannie* Martin**, missionaries to American Peoples in Argentina through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert* and Janice Mooney**, IMB missionaries to European Peoples in Latvia through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Stephen* and Svetlana* Parish**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the U.S. through strategy coordination and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael and Sarah* Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

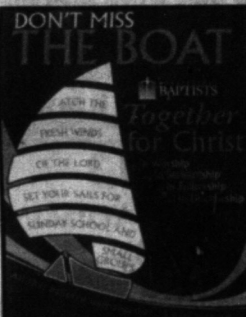
Pray for: **John* and Amy Purl**, missionaries to European Peoples in Bulgaria through volunteer coordination, community and home outreach.

Pray for a team of seven from the **Lauderdale Association** going to Costa Rica for evangelism and discipleship, 7/9-7/15.

Pray for: **Tracy and Eugenia* Putnam**, missionaries to European Peoples in Russia through theological education, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Annette* and Michael* Racey**, missionaries to American Peoples in the U.S. through church/home outreach and evangelism.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUP TRAINING
KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND PASTOR/GENERAL CONFERENCE LEADER:
ALLAN TAYLOR
RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON
JULY 13, 2013 • 8:30 - NOON

SPONSORED BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT 1-800-748-1651, EXT. 291, OR 601-292-3291.

GuideStone®
Financial Resources
Do well. Do right.®



Thinking you'll never retire? Keep thinking... If you don't die in the pulpit, you'll need a pile of money to take care of the health bills when you cannot preach! Enroll in the "Church Retirement Plan" today.

Call Robin Nichols, MBCB, 601-292-3226

SAVE THE DATES!

Missionary Parents Fellowship

Dates: Friday, September 20 - Saturday, September 21, 2013

Time: Sept. 20, 2 p.m. - Sept. 21, 12:30 p.m.

Location: Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton

Mississippi Missionary Fellowship

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2013

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton



For more information contact Lisa Miller in the WMU office at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 601-292-3317 or lmill@mbcb.org

HOUSE TOPS

Religious Freedom—How Much Longer?

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Author David Barton in his book, *Original Intent*, suggests that our Founding Fathers intended to have a proper relationship between religious expressions and public life whether it is education, law, government or society in general.

Article VI, Section 3 of the Constitution states that "No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." These two constitutional requirements have served to guide us for over

200 years, but in recent years religious freedom has come under much scrutiny if not outright attacked by a more liberal and secular society.

Recently The Southern Baptist Convention met in Houston, Texas, and addressed this issue in one of its resolutions. A resolution is the consensus opinion on an issue or topic by the group present at that particular place and time. Several resolutions were discussed and voted on by those attending. The media highlighted the resolution on the policy change by the Boy Scouts of America but neglected the most important one, religious freedom.

The resolution "ON VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND ASSEMBLY IN

THE UNITED STATES" states that we are to enjoy "religious freedom as an indispensable human right" and that it is "an essential component of a free society."

The resolution also quotes Article 18 of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights which says, "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

Who would have thought that any religious group would need to address and pass a resolution on religious freedom? On May 7th, the National Day of Prayer, Coast Guard Rear

Admiral William Lee in speaking to the audience gathered in Washington, D.C. stated that religious freedom is under attack. Representative Doug Collins, (R-GA), who is a minister and an Air Force reservist, recently remarked, "It appalls me to hear the military of the freest nation in the world has labeled people of faith as religious extremists and continues this hostile attitude even after offering a half-hearted, public apology."



with Jimmy Porter

Why would he make such a comment? In April of this year an Army briefing labeled Evangelical Christians and Catholics as examples of religious extremism. They were included on a list that also mentioned Al Qaeda and Hamas.

Christian organizations, on college and university campuses, have been mandated to allow into membership and leadership individuals who do not affirm the moral and religious standards of said organization. Business owners have been taken to task and sometimes to court for refusing to cater weddings of same sex couples.

Local governments have attempted to deny church groups the right to locate in certain areas by saying "it is not good for business." When our federal government mandates that a business owner provide insurance to cover the morning after pill and other abortion aids, it is blatant religious discrimination.

The list of threats and innuendos gets longer each week. The right to assemble and the right to speak freely on religious issues are becoming more and more endangered. How much longer do we have before some law is passed that says parts of the Bible no longer can be preached or discussed in a public forum? If it is happening in other parts of the world, can it happen in America?

Who is guarding our constitutional right to religious freedom? If you say the White House and Congress then you better ask, "How many scandals do we have going on right now in this administration?" The fact is that unless religious groups rise up, state their positions, and vote, these freedoms will continue to be legislated away by a naive Congress and a judicial system dedicated to making laws instead of interpreting current law.

Citizenship and Religious Liberty Sunday (June 30th) and July 4th are just days away. As a nation we are very careful to celebrate our freedoms, but we must continue the fight for these freedoms. The Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention joins hands with other like-minded groups and organizations in laboring to preserve these fundamental rights granted to us by our God and our government. Pray for us and work with us in this endeavor.

Porter serves as executive director-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or jporter@christianaction.com.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

SCRIPTURE SCRAMBLE

GTNIH IWHT VYEER FRO TING-
SIAGNHVK NI AELCFUR APRREY BTU
EB YB GHTNOIN URYO KWONN
NDA FO NDA DAEM EUSTRSQE
IUCLPAISPNTOT ELT OT EB
DNRSANDTINGUE HCWIH ODG TEH
HSIPAIINLPP XIS OGD EPEAC EKEP
ESSHPAT AHSLL LLA NMSDI NAD
SETHAR UOFR VSEEN TUHHGRO
ESUJS DAN HSI CRT RUOY

Have fun with scrambled words and exercise your Bible knowledge. Unscramble each word to discover the verse or verses from the King James Version. For an extra challenge, unscramble the passage first before unscrambling the scripture reference.

and added that it must begin with pastors and leaders.

"Those saints who love contemporary music, do you really love them? Those saints who love traditional music, do you really love them? Those saints who love praise songs, do you really love them?"

"Those saints who are Calvinist, do you really love them? Those saints who are not Calvinist, do you really love them? Those saints who love just a King James Version of the Bible ... do you love them? Those saints who love the Holman Christian Standard Bible, do you love them? Those saints whose churches ... have Baptist in their name, do you love them? Those churches that don't have Baptist in their name, do you love them?"

"The question of the hour, my brothers and my sisters, [is] do we really love the saints of God?" Luter said. "Do you love the saints of God enough to work together to impact lostness in America? Jesus says we should love each other like He loved us, and He loved us so much that He died for us."

On Tuesday night and again on Wednesday afternoon before the annual meeting was gavelled to a close, Luter led messengers in saying, in unison multiple times, "Lord, send a revival, and let it begin with me."

During his report, Page mentioned one barrier to unity: the debate over Calvinism that led him to form a 19-member advisory committee. The committee, which included Eric Hankins, senior pastor of First Church, Oxford, issued its report in late May.

"I am not naïve," Page said of the differences over Calvinism. "I know there will continue to be problems and difficulties, but I am convinced that if we will talk to each other together we will see a unity that will allow us to win more men, women, boys, and girls to Christ than ever before."

The Great Commission, and not Calvinism, should be the focus, Page said.

The report by the Calvinism team, which was not an official convention committee, urged Southern Baptists to "grant one another liberty" on the issue and "stand together"

for the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

"We affirm that, from the very beginning of our denominational life, Calvinists and non-Calvinists have cooperated together," the report said. "We affirm that these differences should not threaten our eager cooperation in Great Commission ministries."

The day prior to the convention, members of the committee on Calvinism explained their report during an exhibit hall panel discussion. Committee member Tammi Ledbetter, a religious journalist from Texas, noted that the report's goals can be accomplished only if individual Southern Baptists take the report to heart.

"It's really up to all of you as to what happens with this," said Ledbetter, a homemaker and member of Inglewood Church in Grand Prairie, Texas. "We can talk it to death, and I think we probably have. What matters is what you do with your life in the way you relate to other people. And every time you have a conversation about this document or you have a conversation about a fellow believer ... how you handle yourself will make the whole difference."

Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and a committee member, agreed. "So much of this comes back to what Tammi said — our own personal attitudes and dispositions," Akin said, adding that Southern Baptists need to be men and women of honesty and integrity.

"If we will pursue those types of agendas in the days ahead, I believe we can come together for the very purpose on which we fought the conservative resurgence. That is, standing on an inerrant Bible to get the Gospel to every person on the planet," Akin added.

The Boy Scouts resolution, which was overwhelmingly approved, said the Scouts' decision to allow homosexual-identifying youth is "viewed by many homosexual activists as merely the first step in a process that will fundamentally change the BSA," putting "the Scouts at odds with a consistent biblical worldview on matters of human sexuality."

The resolution further said the decision "has the potential to complicate basic understandings of male friendships, needlessly politicize human sexuality, and heighten sexual tensions within the Boy Scouts."

Churches that choose to sever ties with the Boy Scouts should not abandon their ministry to boys, the resolution stated, but should consider expanding their Royal Ambassadors ministry (www.wmu.com/ra), a distinctively Southern Baptist missions organization to develop godly young men.

The resolution urged churches and families that remain in the Boy Scouts "to seek to impact as



EXHIBIT PREP — Terry Pedigo (left), director of design for the International Mission Board (IMB), and Alan Perrow, senior graphic designer with the IMB, set up the organization's exhibit June 8 prior to the 156th annual meeting of the SBC at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. (BP photo)

many boys as possible with the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ, to work toward the reversal of this new membership policy, and to advocate against any future change in leadership and membership policy that normalizes sexual conduct opposed to the biblical standard."

The resolution on mental health, also overwhelmingly approved, identified such mental health issues as autism disorders, intellectual disability, and mental health conditions like schizophrenia, clinical depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorders, and diseases of the aged including dementia and Alzheimer's.

The resolution expressed support for "the wise use of medical interventions" and supported research and treatment "when undertaken in a manner consistent with a biblical worldview."

"We call on all Southern Baptists and our churches to look for and create opportunities to love and minister to, and develop methods and resources to care for, those who struggle with mental health concerns and their families," the resolution stated.

The subject of mental health was further spotlighted when Ronnie Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in Springdale, Ar., made a motion that called on SBC entities to work cooperatively to create and identify resources available to individuals and churches that minister to those who suffer from mental health challenges. The motion was referred to the Executive Committee and other entities.

Floyd cited statistics that 58 million Americans and 450 million persons worldwide suffer from mental disorders, and one million die from suicide annually. He said churches and communities are filled with people who need Southern Baptists to minister to them and their families.

"It's time for the SBC to be on the front lines of mental health challenges," he said.

During the LifeWay presentation, entity President Thom Rainer encouraged messengers to read

Page's new book, *Melissa*, which he called "one of the most powerful books I've ever read."

Rainer noted it is unusual for him to promote a book during his report. "Many of us in vocational ministry want to act like our homes have no problems. Frank Page takes down the façade and lets us see a real family with real struggles," Rainer said.

Messengers also passed a resolution calling on churches to protect children from sexual abuse and to pray for abuse victims.

In other matters:

■ Crossover, the annual evangelical outreach held in the annual meeting's host city, resulted in 582 reported professions of faith in Christ. The outreach is held on the weekend prior to the convention.

■ International Mission Board (IMB) President Tom Elliff delivered the entity's report, telling messengers they are living in a time of the greatest lostness in the history of the world. "Are we going to back down?" he asked.

Southern Baptists are making progress in penetrating that lostness, but far more needs to be done, he said. In 2012, he said, there were 337,385 professions of faith in Christ and 24,073 new church plants in other countries through the work of IMB missionaries — but more than half the world has yet to hear the Gospel.

The world has 3,041 unengaged, unreached people groups (UUPG), and a total of 1,837 SBC churches and entities are committed to reach an UUPG through the Embrace initiative. In 2012 alone, 133 people groups were newly engaged by Southern Baptists.

The IMB could do so much more if it had the funding, Elliff said. IMB's 2013 budget is \$323 million, but IMB received far less than that in 2012 — \$96 million through the Cooperative Program and \$149 million through the Lottie Moon offering.

"It's time to put our money where our mouth is," Elliff said.

Via the Internet-based Skype communication service, messengers heard from an IMB worker

who plants churches in southern Asia. Because he serves in a closed country, his face was darkened. He said God's call on him was clear and that he gets lonely at times, but "God's word actively sustains me."

■ North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Kevin Ezell delivered the entity's report, saying that 1,084 new churches were planted in North America last year. The goal, Ezell said, is to plant churches in cities and in areas where Southern Baptists have less of a presence.

He cited statistics that show Mississippi has one SBC church for every 1,385 people, Texas has one for every 3,351, New Jersey one for every 78,000, and Canada one for every 115,000. Missiologists, he said, say one evangelical church is needed for every 1,000 to 2,000 people.

"We must go," to the cities, Ezell said, adding that 80% of the population lives in and around cities. NAMB has highlighted 32 cities it calls Send Cities, Ezell said, and a NAMB missionary designated as the Send City Coordinator resides in each one.

The coordinator's job is to recruit church planters to that city. Additionally, Ezell said, there is a Church Planting Catalyst for every one million people in North America. The goal is to plant four churches among each one million people.

The biblical model, he said, is churches planting churches — "healthy, evangelistic churches."

**KING CONSTRUCTORS, LLC
GENERAL CONTRACTORS**

We have over 30 years experience in pre engineered metal buildings. Design build with stamped architect drawings available in house.

Let us build your sanctuary or family life center.

Free estimates and references available upon request

Authorized Gulf States Dealer
(662) 779-0000

**CD or IRA
Maturing?**

**4-7%
First Year
GUARANTEED***

**L.D.
O'Mire**
Financial Services

1.800.844.3254

*Guaranteed for the first year only. Not subject to change without notice. Not available in all states. Please contact your broker for more information. © 2013 L.D. O'Mire Financial Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

COOLING OFF — Hudson Lee, age eight, celebrates after sliding down an inflatable water slide June 8 at a block party at First Outreach Church in Houston, Texas. About 20 churches in Houston participated in Crossover 2013, an evangelistic outreach held prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 11-12 in Houston. (BP photo)



God Instructs His People • Exodus 20:1-4, 7-8, 12-17; 24:4-8

God chose Israel to be His people. As the sovereign Creator of all people, the prerogative to choose a people for Himself rested with God alone. As part of that prerogative, God also had the sole right to determine how His people should live and what they should accomplish. In the metanarrative of God's Story, God revealed His purpose as seeking to redeem lost people, men and women who had allowed their sinful behavior to separate them from God. Thus, to be used of God in the redemptive enterprise, His people had to become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exod. 19:6). As priest they would represent a holy God to sinful people and sinful people to a holy God. Therefore their character was to mirror His character of holiness.

Be Loyal to God (Exod. 20:1-4, 7-8)

God's first instruction to His people was for them to maintain a proper relationship with Him. As such they needed to acknowledge He was the LORD their God who brought them out of Egypt; they could not have any other gods beside Him (20:1-3). Attendant to this command was the second instruction against making and worshipping idols, graven images of created things (20:4-5). This command was very important considering the propensity of other nations to worship idols.

God's third instruction was to "not take

the name of the LORD your God in vain" (20:7; RSV). In literal Hebrew the command is "You shall not lift up the name of the LORD your God to emptiness." People claiming to be God's children but living as though He does not exist are lifting up His name to emptiness. If you say today, "I am a Christian," then your life should reflect the love and holiness of Christ. If you claim Christ but talk and live like the Devil, you are lifting up God's name to emptiness.

God also instructed His people "to remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (20:8). The Hebrew word rendered "Sabbath" means "rest." The Sabbath was to be a weekly day of rest from work and normal activities to worship and to meditate on God as Creator (Exod. 20:11) and as Deliverer (Deut. 5:15).

Be Respectful of Others (Exod. 20:12-17)

God's instructions related to the verti-

cal relationship between Him and people, but He also sought proper relationships between people, the horizontal dimension. Training on how to treat people properly begins in the home with the education of the children. As such, children were expected to honor their fathers and mothers (20:12).

The word "honor" derives from the Hebrew term "to be heavy" and literally meant "to give weight to" parental teachings.

People were to

value human life by not committing premeditated murder (20:13). They were to value the sanctity of marriage by not committing adultery (20:14). People were also to honor their neighbor's property by not stealing it (20:15). The prohibition against giving "false testimony" (20:16; RSV) was intended to undergird the value of truth in legal proceedings in particular and in everyday life in general. Finally, to maintain proper relationship with God and neighbor, God's people were to avoid coveting their neighbor's possessions (20:17). Coveting is the spirit of entitlement in which one person desires what another has. Often the

attitude intensifies into an uncontrollable urge resulting in an act of violence or sin in obtaining what another has.

Be Committed to Obedience (Exod. 24:4-8)

God's people needed to commit to being obedient to the Lord's instructions or they would never become a kingdom of priests or a holy nation. So Moses "wrote down everything the Lord had said" (24:4; RSV). He built an altar and erected 12 stone pillars, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The covenant community worshiped by offering sacrifices (24:5). Moses then read the Book of the Covenant and the people vowed to do "everything the Lord has said" (20:7a). They promised to obey (24:7b). Moses symbolically sealed the pledge by sprinkling half the blood on the altar (24:6) and the other half on the people (24:8).

I was once asked by a new convert why she needed to be baptized. I explained how baptism was a symbolic portrayal of death, burial, and resurrection, signifying both Christ's commitment to believers and new believers' commitment to Him. I also pointed out baptism is the believer's first act of obedience. God's people demonstrate obedience to Him one act at a time!

VanHorn is Dean of the Mississippi College School of Christian Studies and the Arts.

Whom Can I Trust? • Job 28:1-4, 12-13, 15-16, 20-23, 26-28

The title of this lesson, "Whom Can I Trust?" is a very appropriate study in the light of the news this week and the evidence that people nor governments are always worthy of trust. An employee of National Security Agency broke the trust of the agency by revealing a practice of surveillance he thought violated the privacy of private citizens and, at the same time, violated the security practices of the NSA and the peoples' trust.

No one has ever experienced a deeper crisis of belief than Job. His friends have turned against him in his suffering and are accusing him of a secret sin which has caused the extreme affliction and desperation he is experiencing. Job does not understand why God is not answering him as he cries out to Him concerning why these things have happened to him. He admitted that he did not understand the all-powerful God and could not even if God explained Himself thoroughly to him. His three friends have pled continually with him to confess his sin, repent of it, and, thus, return to fellowship with God. They are persistent in their condemnation and accusations, but offer him no comfort, encouragement, or consolation. From their total ignorance of Job's situation and their flawed perspective of God and the relationship He desires to have with humans, they

maintain that Job's suffering is the result of secret sin in his life, and that repentance of that sin will straighten out his life, and he will again have everything he had before his affliction—family, possessions, and wealth. But Job refuses to admit to something he did not do. He knows from his experience that the righteous are not shielded from suffering, and the wicked do prosper in spite of the belief of some religious people of his day.

Job still believes God will vindicate him because he is innocent of sinfulness; therefore, he rehearses his case as he would present it to God. He has departed from evil—dedicated himself to live righteously—and will not allow this trial to compromise his convictions morally or spiritually. Part of his dedication is in his speech, about which he says, "My lips will not speak wickedness, and my tongue will utter no deceit." (27:4)

Wisdom is the subject in chapter 28 because Job wants to show what real wisdom

is. He first speaks of earthly or natural wisdom and then of needed or eternal wisdom. The work of mining in Job's day was the great example of human skill and ingenuity just as nuclear technology, space, and medical achievements are today. Mining produces metals and gems that would be unknown except for very hard work that extracting them from the earth requires. A lesson learned is that anything of value

requires effort or expenditure. The ore dug from the earth must be refined to become the product of greatest possible

beauty and value. In order to be useful vessels to God we, too, have to go through the purifying process which often comes in the form of trials.

Job continues with the steps in the mining process to illustrate that people may go to great lengths to achieve what they want by sheer will, human ingenuity and hard work, but their own efforts to attain wisdom for coping with life fall far short of the

wisdom available in and from God. The wisdom that comes from God, the practical application of God's Word to daily living, is far more valuable than all earthly treasures—whether gold or silver, coral, jasper, rubies or topaz—none compare with true wisdom. This truth is a shock for "wisdom and the acquisition of wealth are inseparable in the minds of most men." (F.C. Cook)

"Where does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell?" Wisdom is found in God. His wisdom is reflected in the order and practicality of creation. The winds and the waters, the rain and the thunderstorms were confirmed and tested by His wisdom. Job said, "The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding." Human wisdom has devised impressive philosophies of life, some secular and others religious, some materialistic and others spiritual. The Lord reveals His wisdom through His divinely inspired Word and expects people to seek it and to live by it. Since the beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord (Proverbs 9:10), wisdom from God comes to those who seek it through persistent Bible study and prayer.

Duncan is a member of First Church, Starkville.

Explore the Bible

with Marion D. Duncan



FINCH

cont. from p.2

binging on TV or movies, my own wrong motives, wrong beliefs, and even unconfessed sin. When I have allowed any of those things in my life, it has caused me to grow weary.

The Bible encourages us to lay aside those things which easily trip us up and cause us to sin, and instead fix our eyes on Jesus.

What about you? Be honest with yourself. What causes you to grow spiritually weary? Are there patterns

that need to change so you will not be tempted to give into evil? It is not enough for us to just identify destructive symptoms, habits or patterns; we must then do something about it.

Let's not be those Christians who act like we have it all together while we silently

wallow in our sin.

Find someone who will hold you accountable and encourage you and build you up to continue to do the good you know you ought to do (Hebrews 3:13, 10:24).

Finch serves as assistant professor of theology in

women's studies at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, and is nearing the end of her Ph.D. studying systematic theology. This column first appeared at BiblicalWoman.org, a blog of Southwestern Seminary, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

Just for the Record



VAIDEN CHURCH, VAIDEN, recently licensed Patrick Bain and Sid Vaughn into the gospel ministry. Shown are Bain, pastor Dean Stewart, and Vaughn.



LIBERTY HILL CHURCH, POPE, recently honored their pastor of nine years, Jay Anderson, with a plaque recognizing his service.



HIGH HILL CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, recognizes its Bible drillers. Front row: Abby Cook, Bristina Gibson, and Whitney Billings; back row: Logan Anderson, Stephen Gilmore, Alexis Billings, and Hunter Graham.



DESOTO CHURCH, CLARKE CITY, tried to Stamp Out Negativism in March. Anyone saying anything negative had to put a quarter in a jar. The money went to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Shown are youth team members Kyle and Lindsey Followell.



DANIEL MEMORIAL CHURCH, JACKSON, ordained Loren White to the gospel ministry May 19. Shown are White and pastor Lawrence Baylot. White will encourage and train churches in ministry to Muslims as an area representative of Crescent Project. He also ministers through preaching and music.



FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, MATHISTON, held a baby dedication service for Rydder Lowery and Denny K. Washington Apr. 28. Parents are Christopher and Kayla Leggett.



The mission team from **NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH, SUMMIT**, was sent to Moore, Okla., to provide disaster relief for tornado victims. The team also provided a day care for children while their parents worked toward sorting through remains and filed insurance claims.



FALKNER CHURCH, FALKNER, held a baby dedication May 26. Steve Cohea, pastor.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.